



## red bat

*Lasiurus borealis*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Chiroptera  
Family: Vespertilionidae

### Features

The red bat is 3 3/4 to 4 3/4 inches long, including a tail that's up to 2 1/2 inches. It has soft, rust-colored fur with white tips. Its large, wide tail is furred on the top and its hind feet are also furred. The shoulder has a white patch. The tragus (membranous projection) is less than half the length of the ear.

### Natural History

The red bat lives primarily in trees, bushes, shrubs, and weeds but occasionally may be found in attics or caves. Its wintering roost sites are not known. It is an insectivore that feeds from dusk to dawn. It is fairly tolerant of cold. Mating occurs in the fall and spring. Those females that mate in the fall store sperm in the uterus until spring, when egg fertilization occurs. The gestation period is three months. Two, three, or four young are born to a female in May or June. The female forages without taking her young with her. The red bat is a summer resident in Iowa. Spring migration probably begins in April. Fall migrants are gone by October. Though

it rarely enters buildings, the red bat ranks third in numbers sent in for rabies analysis.

### Habitats

bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

summer: statewide; migrant: statewide

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.